Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The Acting Assistant Engineer Mr. Kattappuram Verghese.

174. Mr. P Raman Menon:—Will the Government be pleased to state the approximate difference in the cost of the work if the level is to vary by one inch from the actual for the whole area?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon:—A difference of one inch in this work would involve an amount of about Rs. 430.

Allegations against the Chittur Municipal Surveyor.

175. Mr. A. Eachara Menon:—With reference to question No. 16 of the fourth Budget Session, will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) whether they are aware that the Chairman's report is released to the Councillors;

(2) whether they will now be able to place it on the table;

(3) whether they are in receipt of further report from the Chairman?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:—(1) Yes.

(2) Government regret that the report being confidential as already stated in answer to sub-division 6 of question No. 16 of the last Budget Session, it cannot be placed on the Council table

(3) No.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon:—Have these Municipal Councillors been instructed to keep this report confidential?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:—I want notice.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—Are there any definite rules to make papers confidential?

Rama Varmha Tampuran: - No. Certain papers are marked confidential.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—So, is it according to the whims of the Government?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:— Yes.

Purchase and fittings of lamp posts—claims of Messrs. Brunton & Co. against the Trichur Municipality.

176. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar:— Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) whether the Trichur Municipality owes some money

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to Messrs. Brunton & Co. in connection with the purchase and fittings of lamp posts;

(2) whether the action of the Chairman in purchasing these lamp posts was ratified by the Council;

(3) did the Mechanical Engineer and the Chief Engineer on the instruction of the Government examine the rates and certify that the price paid is below the schedule rate and favourable to the Municipality;

(4) if so, what was the reason in delaying to give the sanction to the expenditure by the Government;

(5) is it a fact that Brunton has issued a legal notice to the Government for the payment?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:- (1) Yes.

(2) Yes, subject to a dissenting minute.

(3) Yes.

(4) The matter is under the consideration of Government.

(5) No.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar:— With regard to sub-division (2) may I know how many members signed in the ratification?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:— I want notice. I don't remember the exact number.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar:- May I take it that all those who were present except this one member signed it?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:— I want notice.

Mr. T. A. Ramachanrda Ayyar:— May I know who wrote the dissenting minute—a Government member or a non-official member?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:— If I remember right, it is a non-official member.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan:— Is the dissenting minute by a single member or more members than one?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:— That question has been answered just now.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval:— How long has this matter been under the Government's consideration?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:— For about for or five months.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval:— When is it likely to be disposed of?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:— As early as possible.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval:— May I know the approximate time in weeks or months within which it is likely to be disposed of?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:—I cannot give a more accurate answer.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:— The question is what was the reason in delaying to give the sanction. Where is the answer for it ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:— The answer has been given there. "The matter is under the consideration of the Government."

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:— The Hon'ble Member was asking the reason for the delay.

President:— He replied that the matter was under consideration

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval:— May I know whether this matter will be considered as an urgent one by the Government?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:— It is receiving the earnest attention of the Government.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval:— I find that the matter has been engaging the attention of the Government for the last 5 months. I find suit notices referred to here. To avoid that possibility would this matter be treated as more than of common-place importance ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:—There has been no suit notice at all. That is a wrong presumption.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval:— When is it likely to be disposed of ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:— The answer was given.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar:— Did the Municipality ask for the return of the file ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:—To the best of my knowledge, they have not.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar:— Was sanction accorded to prosecute the gentleman who wrote the dissenting minute?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:— I want notice.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar:— Were these files required in connection with that prosecution ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:— I want notice.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar:— You said that the Government have taken the opinion of the Mechanical Engineer and the Chief Engineer on the matter. When did they receive that ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:— It was received a few months back.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar:— The Government receved a revised estimate for sanction on 9th February 1934. Now we have passed more than 11 months. You have received these reports also. Have you to get any report from any other gentleman other than the Chief Engineer and the Mechanical Engineer ?

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Rama Varmha Tampuran:— Till orders are finally passed on the matter, I cannot give a categorical reply to the question off-hand.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar:—Were you not satisfied with the opinions of the Chief Engineer and Mechanical Engineer on the question of the price of a few lamp posts ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:— We have received a report from the Chief Engineer and the whole matter is under consideration. I cannot say whether any more report will be required from anybody else.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar:— You have received the report some months ago. The matter has been pending before you for nearly a year and then what is the delay in passing final orders on the matter ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:— The question again comes to the question "What is the reason for the delay".

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval:— May I know the amount of the claim ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:— Rs. 4350

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan:— May I know whether any pressure has been brought upon the municipality for payment of this amount ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:— They have been asking for the amount due to them.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan:— Has that fact been brought to the notice of the Government ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:— The Municipality has reported.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan:— May I know approximately when the report was received by Government ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:— A month or a month and a half back.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar:— Is there any department other than the Engineering Department which can test the lamp posts ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:— That is all a matter of opinion.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar:— Which officer of Government is now considering this question ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:— The Government are considering the question. I cannot give a more definite answer.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar:— What is the average duration in matters like this ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:— There is no fixed rule.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar:— May I know the minimum and maximum time generally taken by the Government ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:—I have not got the information.

Mr. P. Raman Menon:— Were these purchases made with the sanction of the Government ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:— The revised estimate has not been sanctioned It is pending sanction.

Mr. P. Raman Menon:— Was any sanction obtained ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:— Yes. An early sanction has been obtained.

Mr. P Raman Menon:— Was it obtained after the purchase or before the purchase ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:— An earlier sanction has been obtained. I want notice to find out the exact date.

Mr P. Raman Menon:—Was it a ratification or was it a sanction for purchase?

Rama Varmha Tampuran —I want notice.

177 Mr. E Ikkanda Warriar:—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) When they got the file regarding the purchase of lamp posts from Messrs. Brunton & Co. by the Trichur Municipality;

(2) Whether it has been returned;

(3) if so, when was it returned and the reasons for the delay;

(4) whether Messrs. Brunton & Co. has sent a suit notice for the amount due to them?

Rama Varmha Tampuran: - (1) The Government received a revised estimate in the matter for sanction on 9th February 1934.

(2) and (3) The revised estimate has not been sanctioned by Government and it is under their consideration.

4) No.

Condition of the Mupliyam School Building.

178. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar: —Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) the total number of students in Mupiliyam School, at present;

(2) when was this started;

(3) what is the present condition of the school building;

(4) has one of the rafters broken and fallen down;

(5) what is the P. C. R. expenditure last year;

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